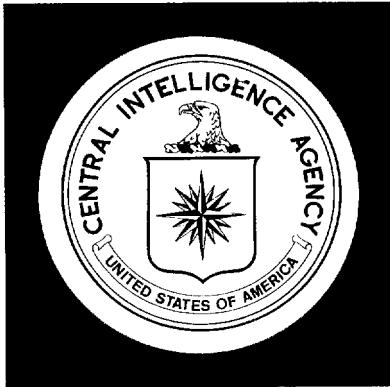


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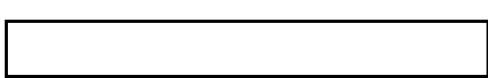
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FEDAYEEN-SUDAN: The fedayeen Black September Organization, responsible for terrorist spectaculars in Munich and Bangkok, is holding the US ambassador and deputy chief of mission, and three other diplomats and dependents, in Khartoum as hostages for guerrillas held in Jordan, Israel, and West Germany.

A group of four to seven terrorists, armed with automatic weapons, seized the Saudi Arabian Embassy yesterday at the end of a reception in honor of the departing US deputy chief of mission. The two US diplomats and the Belgian chargé were injured but have received medical treatment. The Saudi ambassador and the Jordanian chargé are also in custody. Moreover, the terrorists claim to have set explosive charges in the embassy. The Sudan Government has ruled out the use of force and is negotiating with the terrorists for the release of the hostages.

The terrorists' demands are somewhat more extensive than their apparent immediate objective, the release of a senior Black September official and 16 other terrorists captured by the Jordanians in early February. A Black September team, led by Muhammad Daud Awadh (alias Abu Daud), was intercepted before accomplishing their mission of kidnapping the Jordanian prime minister and other key government officials. The failure of the operation in Jordan was a severe blow to Fatah, of which Black September is the terrorist arm. Fatah leader Yasir Arafat [redacted] called for an all-out effort to force the release of Awadh and his men.

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Despite mediation efforts by a number of Arab states, the Jordanians have thus far refused to free the Awadh team. It will be difficult, however, for the Jordanians to hold this position in the aftermath of the Black September coup in Khartoum. [redacted]

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IRELAND: On the basis of incomplete returns, Prime Minister Lynch has conceded victory to the Fine Gael - Labor Party coalition.

The latest returns indicate that the new prime minister will be Fine Gael leader Liam Cosgrave and that the deputy prime minister will be Labor leader Brendan Corish. Although ten seats are still undecided, it appears that the coalition will have an over-all majority of one or two seats when the new Dail convenes on 14 March. The narrow margin of victory, coupled with the coalition's hastily arranged joint campaign program, suggest the new government will initially proceed with caution as it irons out remaining differences. The first taste of power after 16 years in opposition, however, should give an impetus to solving these problems and maintaining parliamentary discipline.

The coalition is sure to continue Dublin's moderate, gradualist approach to the question of how Irish unity should be achieved. Indeed, some coalition members may be more willing than the cautious Lynch to push for social reforms in the Republic that would make the prospect of unity less distasteful to Northern Ireland Protestants. The coalition is also likely to carry on Lynch's policy of restricting IRA operations in the south.

There should be no fundamental change in Irish-US relations, although the current civil aviation dispute over trans-Atlantic landing rights could prove to be an irritant. The new minister of transport and power seems likely to be one of the most vocal opponents of the US position.

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PAKISTAN: Islamabad is planning to import large quantities of wheat in the fiscal year beginning next July, despite a projected record crop this spring.

The government hopes to import about 1.2 million tons during the fiscal year, [redacted]

[redacted] Imports of this magnitude, together with the expected output of 7.2 million tons from the spring 1973 harvest and reserve stocks of 200,000 tons will raise total availability of wheat to 8.6 million tons. The government understandably wants to sustain the peak per capita consumption level attained during the current year and also is considering a doubling of its wheat reserves, which would increase further the import requirement. Total wheat availability this year has been about 8.5 million tons, including domestic production of 6.7 million tons and imports of 1.5 million tons, predominantly under US PL-480.

Pakistan's Economic Coordination Committee believes that the US may not be able to fill Pakistan's total requirement for the year beginning in July, because world demand for wheat has reduced US stocks. Pakistan has been seeking to purchase 100,000 tons of wheat from the US on a commercial basis since early February as the initial procurement for the coming year's requirements. The cash value of the full 1.2 million tons will be about \$130 million at current market prices, equivalent to about 20 percent of Pakistan's annual export earnings. Pakistan hopes to obtain maximum credit facilities from the US and other suppliers to avoid a foreign exchange drain. [redacted]

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CHINA-US: Peking has directly solicited offers of cotton from US firms for the first time,

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The Chinese previously have purchased US agricultural commodities through third country firms or from foreign brokers representing US firms, at some additional cost. Over the last few months, Peking purchased about 90,000 tons of US cotton worth about \$75 million. China's cotton crop last year was not good, and there are reports of cuts in this year's cotton ration in at least one province.

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